

April 16, 1975

Applications had been made and approved, and the only problem was the children could not get out of Vietnam, and the difficulty of maintaining them or guaranteeing that they would even live in Vietnam was becoming impossible to guarantee. I talked to one little five year old boy from up around Plaque, he was with sixteen other children from an orphanage. He was the only one alive out of that group. He had huddled with the other children in a house or someplace that had been hit by a rocket, that was the end of all but him. So, for those who want to criticize the orphan airlift and find one or two flaws in it, I think you should examine it more closely, because I think in the long run, it was a very great thing that this country did. On the resolution the way it now stands, all it says, I repeat, all it says is that we encourage the Congress to support the plans and programs of the President with respect to South Vietnam. It's a little absurd for me or Senator Chambers, or any Senator in here, to say absolutely what plans, what specifics, should be done. We have to rely, to a degree, on the information the President has obtained. The resolution does say that in the alternative, for those of you who feel that we should do nothing further and this is the real thrust of the resolution, but in the alternative failing to encourage the Congress to do that, we do encourage the Congress to provide some programs and plans for evacuation and safety of refugees who would definitely exterminated by the communists. To me that seems fairly reasonable, fairly simple, quite humanitarian.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I'll make this brief, and I'll ask Senator DeCamp a couple of questions.

SENATOR DECAMP: Yes sir.

SENATOR LEWIS: Isn't your resolution primarily geared to the young people of South Vietnam, or are we talking about everyone, and are we talking about issues way and beyond evacuation?

SENATOR DECAMP: On which aspect of the resolution? The refugees we're talking about? We're talking about children basically.

SENATOR LEWIS: You're talking about political leaders and that kind?

SENATOR DECAMP: Well, we're talking about people that have been in the government, we're talking about people that have worked with the Americans. We're talking about, if you want to call them political leaders, and then say well they've got corrupt political leaders in Vietnam....

SENATOR LEWIS: I didn't say that.

SENATOR DECAMP: I realize that, but this is the argument that could be easily made. You know, there's a corrupt one here so they're all corrupt, therefore, they should all go down the tube.

SENATOR LEWIS: Thank you, Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: It involves a cross section of the population who worked to preserve the country of South Vietnam, who would suffer retribution.